

Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities (MR/RD) Waiver Information Sheet

South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Prior to 1991, the Federal Medicaid program paid for services to SCDDSN consumers only if that person lived in an institution. The approval of Federal Home and Community Based Waiver programs allowed Medicaid to pay for services to consumers in their homes and in their communities. Section 1915(c) of the Federal Social Security Act enables the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN) to operate a Home and Community-Based Waiver program for people with Mental Retardation or Related Disabilities (MR/RD).

MR/RD Waiver Participation

To participate in the MR/RD Waiver, a person must:

- ✓ be diagnosed with Mental Retardation or a Related Disability.
- ✓ be eligible to receive Medicaid or already qualify for Medicaid.
- ✓ require the degree of care that would be provided in an ICF/MR; therefore, meet ICF/MR Level of Care criteria.
- ✓ be given the option of receiving services in his/her home and community or in an ICF/MR.
- ✓ have needs that can be met by the MR/RD Waiver.
- ✓ be allocated a Waiver slot.
- ✓ be informed of the alternatives covered by the MR/RD Waiver, choose to receive MR/RD Waiver services, and choose among qualified providers.

MR/RD Waiver Termination

MR/RD Waiver Enrollment is terminated when the recipient:

- ✓ is admitted to an ICF/MR or nursing facility.
- ✓ no longer meets ICF/MR Level of Care.
- ✓ is no longer eligible for Medicaid as determined by SCDHHS.
- ✓ voluntarily withdraws or no longer wishes to receive services funded by the MR/RD Waiver.
- ✓ does not receive a MR/RD waiver service for 30 consecutive days.

Applying for MR/RD Waiver Services

- Regardless of the applicant's age, contact the Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Board in the county in which the applicant lives if not currently receiving SCDDSN services. This information can be obtained by contacting the SCDDSN Office of Community Education at (803) 898-9692.
- Inform your Service Coordinator/Early Interventionist that you wish to apply for the MR/RD Waiver if currently already receiving SCDDSN services. Your Service Coordinator/Early Interventionist will be responsible for working with you to gather the information to complete the application.
- You will receive written response from SCDDSN regarding your MR/RD Waiver application.

Applying for SCDDSN Services

- For consumers 0-3, application must be made through Babynet. Contact information can be obtained by calling the Babynet Care Line 1-800-868-0404. Babynet eligibility/services does not have to be obtained in order to apply for the MR/RD Waiver.
- For consumers 3 and older, contact the Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Board in the county in which the applicant lives. This information can be obtained by contacting the SCDDSN Office of Community Education at (803) 898-9692 or at www.state.sc.us/ddsn/.
- If you are screened appropriate for consideration of eligibility, the local DSN Board will assist you with completing the eligibility process. Application for MR/RD Waiver Services can be made at this time.
- An applicant found ineligible for DDSN services will be notified in writing, including reason(s) for denial. This notification will provide information on how to appeal denial of eligibility.

Your Annual Plan

A annual plan of services and supports **must** be completed once every 365 days. If your new plan is not completed by the 364th day, Medicaid cannot pay for your services that were provided. Please work with your Service Coordinator or Early Interventionist to make sure that your plan is completed at least once every year.

Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities Waiver Services

MR/RD Waiver services are provided based on identified needs of the participant and the appropriateness of the service to meet the need. Services can be limited due to provider availability in the recipient's county. A list of enrolled and qualified providers of MR/RD Waiver services can be located at the SCDDSN website (www.state.sc.us/ddsn/) or by contacting the local Disabilities and Special Needs Board in the county in which the recipient lives.

- **Adult Companion Services:** non-medical care, supervision, and socialization provided to an adult (age 18 or older).
- **Adult Day Health Care Services:** care furnished to someone 18 or older 5 or more hours per day for one or more days per week, in an outpatient setting, encompassing both health and social services.
- **Adult Dental Services:** extension of the Medicaid State Plan for adult recipients (21 or older).
- **Adult Vision Services:** extension of the Medicaid State Plan for adult recipients (21 or older).
- **Audiology Services:** extension of the Medicaid State Plan for adult recipients (21 or older).
- **Behavior Support Services:** services to assist people who exhibit problem behaviors learn why the behavior occurs and to teach new appropriate behaviors which are effective and improve their quality of life.
- **Career Preparation:** preparing participants for paid or unpaid employment and careers through exposure to and experience with various careers and through teaching such concepts as compliance, attendance, task completion, problem solving, safety, self determination, and self-advocacy.
- **Community Services:** Services aimed at developing one's awareness of, interaction with and/or participation in their community through exposure to and experience in the community and through teaching such concepts as self-determination, self-advocacy, socialization and the accrual of social capital.
- **Day Activity:** provided in therapeutic settings to enable participants to achieve, maintain, improve, or decelerate the loss of personal care, social or adaptive skills.
- **Employment Services:** intensive, on-going supports that enable participants for whom competitive employment at or above minimum wage is unlikely absent the provision of supports and who, because of their disabilities, need supports to perform in a regular work setting.
- **Environmental Modifications:** physical adaptations to the recipient's home which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the recipient (e.g. installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, etc.) Lifetime cap of \$7500.00.
- **Nursing Services:** services provided within the scope of the SC's Nurse Practice Act as ordered by a physician. Nursing services cannot exceed 60 hours/week of LPN Services or 44 hours/week of RN Services.
- **Occupational Therapy Services:** treatment prescribed by a physician to develop, restore or improve functional abilities that have been limited by a physical injury, illness or other dysfunctional condition for adult recipients (21 or older).
- **Physical Therapy Services:** treatment prescribed by a physician to prevent, alleviate, or compensate for movement, dysfunction, and related functional problems for adult recipients (21 or older).
- **Personal Care Services (I and II):** assistance with personal care and activities of daily living for consumers 21 or older. Personal Care Services are available through the Medicaid State Plan for those under 21.
- **Prescribed Drugs:** the MR/RD Waiver provides two (2) prescriptions in addition to the Medicaid State Plan limit of four (4) for adult recipients.
- **Private Vehicle Modifications:** modifications to a privately owned vehicle used to transport the recipient (e.g. installation of a lift, tie downs, lowering the floor of the vehicle, raising the roof, etc.). There is a limit of \$7,500.00 per vehicle with a lifetime cap of 2 vehicles.
- **Psychological Services:** services focused on assessment of needs and counseling/therapy designed to address cognitive and/or affective skills.
- **Residential Habilitation:** care, skills training and supervision in a non-institutional setting.
- **Respite Services:** care provided on a short-term basis because of the absence or need for relief of those persons normally providing the care.
- **Specialized Medical Equipment, Supplies, and Assistive Technology Services:** devices, controls, appliances, items necessary for life support, ancillary supplies, equipment, and durable and non-durable equipment not available under the Medicaid State Plan that provides medical or remedial benefit to the recipient. Diapers and underpads are available for recipients 3 years old and older. There is a limit of 3 cases of diapers/month and 3 cases of underpads/month.
- **Speech and Language Pathology Services:** extension of the Medicaid State Plan for adult recipients (21 or older).
- **Support Center:** non-medical care, supervision and assistance provided in a non-institutional, group setting outside of the participant's home to people who because of their disability are unable to care for and supervise themselves